

**REGENERATING EMPLOYMENT FOR THE
MIGRATED WORKER AFFECTED BY COVID 19
FROM SPRING SHED REJUVENATION OF UPPER
CATCHMENT AREA OF HENWAL RIVER.**

Completion Report -September 2023.

Supported by

Wilde Ganzen Foundation and Himalaya Resources



HIMCON

**F-20/1, HAUZ KHAS ENCLAVE, HAUZ KHAS , NEW
DELHI-110016**

VILLAGE & POST-SABLI

TEHRI GARHWAL-249199, UTTARAKHAND.

Summary of project achievements

HIMCON initiated a successful program with the support of Himalaya Resources and Wild Geese foundation in the year 2022-23. The objective of the project was to work for water, forest and spring shed conservation and rejuvenations while providing a much needed support to the migrant families adversely impacted by the COVID 19 crises in the country.

As planned we could outreach to more than 500 families through this ambitious project. This project provided livelihood opportunity to more than 300 people generating around 2100 man-days of employment. Several meetings and awareness programs were organized in project villages to mobilise the communities on issues of forest fires, soil and water conservation etc.

20 hectares of land was covered in five villages while planting saplings of different species. 14,650 broad leaf species saplings were planted, 7,840 cuttings of water conserving bushes and shrubs like wild rose, *sinsyaru* and *Ghingaru* were also planted. 200 kilogram of Oak acorns (seeds) having around 20,000 seeds were sown in upper catchments of spring sheds of our project area.

84 small ponds / percolation tanks called *chaals* in local language were constructed in the project area for water conservation and ground water recharge to improve the moisture regime. 10 water harvesting tanks have been repaired and revived in the project village.

Awareness meetings with women and youth groups

HIMCON started this project from June 2022 onwards and completed September 2023. This project has been implemented in *Bidkot, Patudi, Lawadhar, Chopriali, Sabli, Than and Bidon* villages of Henwal river catchment area covering around 500 families. We consulted the villagers especially involving families of the migrant people impacted by the COVID crises and prepared a plan of action depending on the needs of the village communities. Our field team organized monthly meetings on the issues of soil, water conservation and issues of forest fires with women and youth groups.



Detailed Survey of migrant people

HIMCON had conducted a study involving families of migrant people in the project villages. HIMCON team motivated and gave enthusiasm to the migrants. This study was to understand as to what kind of intervention was needed to support and help the stressed migrant community. Our team generated livelihood opportunities and employment for these migrant families in their village on spring shed rejuvenation program.

Construction of Chaals/ Percolation ponds

Our field team identified the sites of percolation ponds in upper catchment area of Henwal valley with the help local communities. Some old percolation ponds have been de-silted and repaired and some new small ponds have been dug. The list of constructed ponds/tanks is as below.

Sl.No.	Name of the Village	Percolation Ponds
1.	Chopriali	19
2.	Bidkot	15
3.	Patudi	26
6.	Than	12
7.	Bidon	12
Total		84





Community Mobilization Program for community forest

Water and forest conservation, development and management cannot succeed unless the concerned beneficiary population is directly involved in the mitigation or restorative measures on a voluntary basis with a vision of participatory teamwork. Community participation in controlling and managing forest fires is important and HIMCON used our meetings and campaigns during the project period to sensitize the community.

Involving the project beneficiaries in the process of restoration, awareness, mobilization, training and demonstration of the local community was part of this program.





Collection of seeds from the forest

HIMCON team motivated the migrated youth and women to collect Oak acorns and other important fodder species from the nearby forest in selected villages especially Sabli and Patudi forest. HIMCON team has collected and sown approximately 200 kilogram oaks seeds during the winter season. The collected acorns have been sown in selected community forests; the list of forests is given below. This is important to improve the ground water level and moisture regime as it rejuvenate the spring sheds and increases the spring water follows.

Sl. No.	Village	Total community forest in hectares	Oak seed sowing in hectares.
1.	Patudi	08	08
2.	Sabli	06	02
3.	Chopriali	05	02
4.	Bidkot	03	01

Plantation work for spring catchment area

During the project period we have planted 14,650 broad leaf saplings in *project* villages of the Henwal valley. 8300 Oaks, 950 *Bhimal*, 4000 *Guriyal*, 300 *Tun*, 700 *Tejbal*, 400 *Khadik* and 7840 cuttings of shrubs and bushes have been planted. These tree saplings have multiple uses as these are water conserving species while providing fodder, fuel and timber needs of the community.

Sl.No.	Village	oaks	Bhimal	Guriyal	Tun R e d cedar	Tejbal	khadik	Cuttings Sinsyaru W i l d rose
1.	Chopriali	3000	-	1500	-	-	-	1000
2.	Bidkot	1800	-	1000	-	-	-	500
3.	Patudi	3500	600	1500	-	-	-	4000
4.	Than	-	200	-	150	600	200	1190
5.	Bidon	-	150	-	150	100	200	1150
Total		8300	950	4000	300	700	400	7840





Oaks acron collection and sowing in upper catchment of springs.

Spring Rejuvenation

HIMCON team worked to recharge and rejuvenate the seasonal springs in project villages. As it helps in improving the moisture regime which is useful for agriculture, animal husbandry and day to day family needs of the community. HIMCON team with migrant youth and women have taken up these activities.

- Constriction of percolation ponds in upper catchment area of springs.
- Construction of contour trenches in upper catchment area of springs.
- Oaks seed sowing in upper catchment area of springs.
- Protection of grasses and bushes in upper catchment area of springs.
- We have done soil water conservation work in the springs of our project villages.



Checkdams and wall construction for Spring Rejuvenation program

Old water harvesting defunct tanks repair

HIMCON identified and repaired 10 Ferro cement roof water harvestings tanks in our selected project villages which are used for day to day needs of the community like drinking water sanitary needs and even for irrigation of homestead area. This was a big support since they were lying underutilized and required the much needed repair work. The detail of beneficiaries is given below.

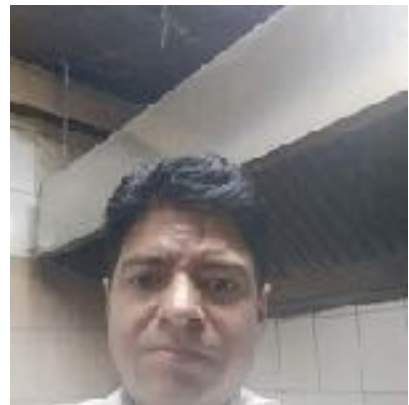
Chopriali village	1.Vikaram Singh 2.Heera Singh 3. Sundarlal 4.Surat Sing 5.Sovan Singh
Bidkot	6.Veer Singh
Patudi	7.Kunwar Singh 8.Taj Veer Singh 9.Chandan Singh 10. Mukund Singh





Brief information about some migrant youth who had to return back during the COVID 19 crises.

Jai Singh Kaintura of Patudivillage was forced to return back from Delhi where he was working in a hotel. With a family of five members he struggles to fulfil his requirements. This project has helped his family financially as they could participate in various activities under the program. Jai Singh has not returned back for any work in the big cities and lives with his family doing small jobs like working in a restaurant or small shop.



Man Jeet Singh of Patudi returns back from Chandigarh / Punjab where he was working in a restaurant. He is the sole bread earner for his family. Man jeet Singh took up various tasks in the implementation of our water conservation program. He stays back in his village while doing small jobs like working in a restaurant or small shop.



Kripal Singh Kaintura of Patudi village was working in Patiala / Punjab and was forced to return back to his village during the COVID times after falling sick. His family is dependent on him for their finical needs. The couple worked with us while implementing our water and spring rejuvenation program.



Vipin Singh Negi of Patudi village had to leave his village at very early age when he was around fifteen years old. He worked in a small shop in Haryana selling cloths but was forced to return during the COVID crises. Vipin is unable return back as there is no job for him as of now. He takes up small jobs like working in a restaurant or small shop in his village for livelihood. He and his family participated during the eco restoration tasks undertaken during our project.



Khem Singh of Patudi village worked as an accountant in Dubai but was badly trapped during the COVID times. He was forced to return back to his village after following sick and had to be quarantined for more than a month. He is unable to return back for any work. Khem Singh and his family joined us in the water conservation tasks under the project. He is doing small jobs like working in a restaurant or small shop in and around the village for livelihood these days.

